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delights in that kind of a pet. Jake is photographed in the act of pulling a young alligator out of his hole by the snout. The photographs are unusually good, and most of them illustrate phases of life among the lowly. Mr. Johnson has written a considerable number of books, but none of them contains more new information of interest to readers than this volume.

Algiers. By M. Elizabeth Crouse. Illustrated by Adelaide B. Hyde. xii and 244 pp., 24 illustrations, and Index. James Pott & Company, New York, 1906. (Price, $2.)

The author lived five months in Algiers taking notes for this volume. She has also been in Tunis, has spent a winter in Egypt, and it seems to her that in neither of these countries "does the Oriental life compare with that in Algeria, both for grace and beauty." Her book is filled with vivid pen-pictures of the monuments the Deys left behind them, and of the lives of the people among whom Western civilization has been introduced by the French. She sees the spirit of the East still alive and poetic beauty and charm still pervading the old Moorish villas, gardens, and mosques; and with sympathy and enthusiasm she tells the story of this city where the East and the West have met, threads the narrow passages of the old town to study the monuments of what has been, and mingles the history and the romance of the old palaces in giving her impressions of them.

We usually hear more of Algiers than of Tunis, and many persons imagine that the former city is materially more important. The fact is that Tunis is nearly three times as populous as Algiers, and the author makes some interesting comparisons between them:

> Tunis is not nearly so beautiful as Algiers, for it is flat upon the sand and lacks the stately arches of the arcades and of the ramparts which conceal the steep cliffs at the foot of the latter city. . . . The whole difference between Tunis and Algiers might be summed up as follows: In Algiers the Arab life is buried, the city belongs to the French, and the French are destroying the Oriental to build a modern Western town. In Tunis the Arab life goes on in all its vigour, protected, not suppressed by the French, who may not destroy anything. Neither are there the oppressive taxes and heavy duties of Algiers. It is therefore much more prosperous and appears so even in the French settlement. And yet the Algerian Moorish life in passing seems to be most beautiful.
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> Ruin has well been called "the charm beyond perfection." It is the freeing of the spirit. And that moment while the spirit lingers is most exquisite of all. It is that period in Algeria now. The French conquest, while destroying and covering much, has caused the Oriental life to reveal its most spiritual loveliness.

The book is permeated with sympathetic interest and imagination. It was well worth writing. Some of its half-tone illustrations are especially charming and characteristic.

Handbook of Polar Discoveries. By A. W. Greely, Major-General U. S. Army. (Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged.) iv and and 325 pp., Portrait, 12 Maps, and Index. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1906. (Price, $1.50.)

General Greely's handbook has grown from 257 pp. in the first edition, ten years ago, to 325 pp. It is now a polar instead of merely an Arctic manual, for it summarizes Antarctic discovery from the earliest days to Charcot's expedition of 1903. The important work of the past decade in the Arctic domain has also added a considerable number of pages. No handbooks on exploration are likely to be so useful in the coming years as those relating to the polar regions, for these zones now offer the largest opportunities for pioneer research; and this manual, covering the whole field of polar work, and written with authority, is very conveniently arranged for reference. It gives the larger facts relating to the whole field of polar endeavour, and the copious